

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2003

Vice Chair Lowell Adams called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Approval for Minutes from July Meeting**

- July 2003 Meeting minutes were approved without any changes.

**August Agenda Modification**

- Commissioners added the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee as an item under Old Business. Discussion on this topic will include creating and developing elements that would make up this subcommittee. Commissioners will vote on Urban Wildlife Subcommittee at a later date.

**Finalize Selection of 2003-2004 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons**

- Presentation by Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Manager
  - 1) Mr. Larry Hindman handed out “Maryland Late Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits 2003-2004 Hunting License Year” [Attachment A].
  - 2) The public comments received showed that they were disappointed that the State could not offer two geese during the AP Canada Geese Season, and they were dissatisfied with the ducks season.
  - 3) The Game Program proposed a change in the opening date of the ducks season, moving the opening date to a later date. The reason for this decision was due to the weather conditions last year, which caused a reduction in the ducks population around the State. The Game Program received support from Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Police (NRP) on this decision.
  - 4) Mr. Larry Hindman outlined the Finalize Selection of 2003-2004 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons to the Commissioners.
- Question and Answers:
  - 1) Commissioner Dollar asked if there was any discussion on the pintails with the Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC) to close the pintails season.
    - (a) Pintails population is declining. As a result, the AFC recommended to the Service, a 60-day season because in this region, hunters harvested less than 5-percent of the continental population of pintails.
    - (b) The Service elected to have a 30-day pintail season.
  - 2) Commissioner Freeland asked if there was a change in the teal season.
    - (a) The Game Program selected to have no change in the teal season. Hunters have the opportunity to harvest a blue-winged or green-winged teal.
  - 3) Commissioner Lamp asked how a hunter would distinguish the AP Canada Goose from the Resident Canada Goose.
    - (a) A hunter would not be able to tell a difference. The Game Program uses the band recovery data to distinguish the difference between the AP Canada Goose and the Resident Canada Goose.
- Motion
  - 1) Commissioner Gregory motioned to accept the recommendations by the Game Program. Commissioner King seconded that motion. Motion passed.

**Chesapeake Forest Lands Update**

- Presentation by Steve Koehn, Director, Forest Service and John Wilson, Staff, Resource Planning
- Mr. John Wilson gave opening remarks on the Chesapeake Forest Lands (CFL). Mr. Wilson mentioned that the State acquired this land by means of duly acquisition with the Conservation Fund. Ultimately, the Conservation Fund gifted their portion to the State. As a recipient, the Chesapeake Fund gave us a Sustainable Forest Management Plan provided by the Samson Group.
  - 1) Mr. John Wilson is working with the Citizens Advisory Committee; this Committee represents diverse interests. The Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the Sustainable Forest Management Plan to determine whether or not the Committee would be comfortable with that plan. The Department is updating the Plan to reflect current conditions and minor revisions predicate on some comments that the Department received.
  - 2) The Department will schedule a public meeting this fall once the draft is completed. After the public meeting, the staff will report the comments to the Citizens Advisory Committee before a final decision is made on the plan.
  - 3) The State Forest Planning Process provides guidelines on how the Department would manage things. For example, an annual work plan was instituted for all cultural activities such as maintenance, restoration, and public use. The Resource

Planning staff is reviewing FY05. They completed the field reviews and are waiting for final comments. Staff will introduce the Annual Work Plan to the public, hopefully, sometime in November. The Annual Work Plan will be finalized early next year, and then, implementation of the approved Annual Work Plan will go into effect on July 1, 2004.

- 4) Staff will participate in two aspects of restoration work:
  - (a) Habitat Restoration
  - (b) Water Quality Restoration
- Public Use of the Chesapeake Forest Lands, presentation by Steve Koehn, Director, Forest Service.
  - 1) One of the issues is public use vs. hunting clubs on the Chesapeake Forest Lands.
  - 2) When the Department acquired the CFL; all of the tracks were under some kind of hunting agreement or hunting lease. As a result, the Department agreed to continue these agreements or leases for a period of time. The Citizens Advisory Committee and the DNR Leadership Team decided to compromise and open up half of the Chesapeake Forest Lands to public hunting, expectantly by the 2007-2008 Hunting Season. The Department will ask the General Assembly for an extension to allow staff to achieve this goal.
  - 3) Some of the tracks will not open to hunting but will open to recreational activities.
  - 4) Some of the tracks will remain under hunting clubs for a five-year period with an option to renew once for additional five years.
  - 5) Staff members are putting together a Board of Public Works item to allow the Department to have delegated authority in order to execute the leases.
  - 6) After many discussions, the Department developed criteria for the opening of tracks on CFL.
    - (a) Proximity from DNR lands.
    - (b) Size of the complex
    - (c) Access off public roads without right of ways
    - (d) Water access
    - (e) Current ready to be use without a lot of preparations
    - (f) Opportunities for public use
    - (g) Locations
  - 7) The Department plans to release this information to the public.
- The Department will present in a document the plans for CFL to the Commissioners.

#### **WHS Information and Education Program Update**

- Presentation by Karina Blizzard, Associate Director
- Ms. Karina Blizzard presented a Power Point presentation.
  - 1) Ms. Blizzard handed out a copy of the WHS Information and Education Program Update [Attachment B].

#### **State Forest and Park Service Update**

- Presentation by Mr. Bob Beckett, Chief Resources Management of State Forest and Park Service (SFPS) presented SFPS update:
  - 1) Thanks went to Karina Blizzard and her staff, for keeping SFPS informed on bear management practices.
  - 2) Ms. Karina Blizzard is working directly with Steve McCoy, Chief of Interpreter on developing a manual containing wildlife information and diseases on black bears, mute swans, resident geese, white-tailed deer, invasive species, and other wildlife. This manual is designed to help land managers but will also be useful for assisting field staff.

#### **Natural Resources Police Update**

- Presentation by Sergeant Ingerson
- NRP Activities, July 14, 2003 through August 18, 2003 [Attachment C]
  - 1) Sergeant Ingerson outlined few of the incidents recorded in [Attachment C].
  - 2) Corporal Shifflet met with an attorney from State's Attorney Office regarding the landowner that shot a bear in Harford County. State Attorney Office is very interested in this case. Corporal Shifflet is still collecting evidence.
  - 3) Mr. Pete Jayne thanked NRP for their support during the issuance of the Shoreline licenses.

#### **MSA Update**

- Commissioners were reminded about the MSA Banquet that is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Report**

- 1) No Report

### **Old Business**

- Vice-Chair Lowell Adams discussed the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee Proposal [Attachment D]. Vice-Chair Lowell Adams emailed the Commissioners his comments about the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.
  - 1) Commissioner Freeland moved to defer this discussion to the October 15, 2003 meeting. Motion passed.
  - 2) Commissioner Dollar would like to revisit the Chesapeake Forest Lands discussion once the Commissioners receive something in writing. Commissioners concurred to add this discussion to the November agenda.

### **New Business**

- Vice-Chair Lowell Adams asked Commissioners if anyone has heard from Mr. Charles Garner.
  - 1) Commissioner Lamp will email Mr. Garner's daughter information to the Commissioners.
- Vice-Chair Lowell Adams also asked if anyone has heard from Commissioner Kathy Jones.
  - 1) No one has heard from Ms. Jones. The new administration provided Director Peditto with a list of individuals recommended for placement on commissions and committees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Adams, C. Dollar, W. Freeland, R. Gregory, M. King, J. Lamp,
Guests:	
Staff:	B. Beckett, B. Beyer, K. Blizzard, L. Hindman, P. Jayne, S. Koehn, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, J. Wilson
Absent:	T. Lambert, C. DeMatteo, G. Fratz, C. Garner, K. Jones